

(Demo) Civilian Conservation Corps



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Maheur refuge

NARRATIVE REPORT

July, 1936

Camp Buena Vista

Oregon

Published by the Supervisory
and facilitating Personnel

Edited by,

Paul Atkins

CAMP PERSONNEL

TECHNICAL STAFF

Stanley G. Jewett	Refuge Supt.
John C. Scharff	Asst. Refuge Supt.
Arthur Page	Asst. Civil Engineer
James Green	Acting Chief Foreman
J. D. Sanders	Carpenter Foreman
Oscar Nelson	Junior Foreman
M. V. Nichols	Junior Foreman
W. L. Carden	Squad Foreman of Laborers
Chas. Clark	Asst. to Technician
Geo. Wilson	Mechanic
Patrick Donegan	Blacksmith
Leland Sitz	Shovel Operator
Stanley Lechowicz	Shovel Operator

ARMY

Capt. Cyrus M. Lane
Commanding Officer

Lt. Duis D. Bolinger
Mess Officer

Lt. Louis Kerstein
Medical Officer

George C. Space
Educational Adviser

CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

CRUSHING

July 1936

A hunt for a local supply of suitable crusher stone ended when sufficient material was found in the form of a bluff about six miles south of Buena Vista camp. This bluff was the cause of a blind dangerous curve and an overhang on the Burns to Frenchglen road. The use of stone from this bluff will widen and better the road in addition to the use of this stone in the crusher.

This month we have crushed about two hundred and forty yards of rock for concrete work and road maintenance. The crusher was not in use the entire month.

With the rock crusher we are furnishing crushed rock for various concrete work and road surfacing. The concrete work includes basements and foundations.

Approximately twenty enrollees divided into three crews operate the crusher. The first crew prepares the rock for use in the crusher. The second crew feeds the rock into the crusher while the third crew hauls the crushed rock away to a stock pile.

J. S. Green

CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

QUARRYING

July 1936

The quarrying project at our camp covers several different jobs. Three Quarries furnish us with pink stone, lava stone and crusher stone.

We are quarrying and cutting the pink stone for the Sod House buildings, including the Headquarters Buildings, the residence building, office building, clerk's residence, equipment shed, pump house and lighting plant house.

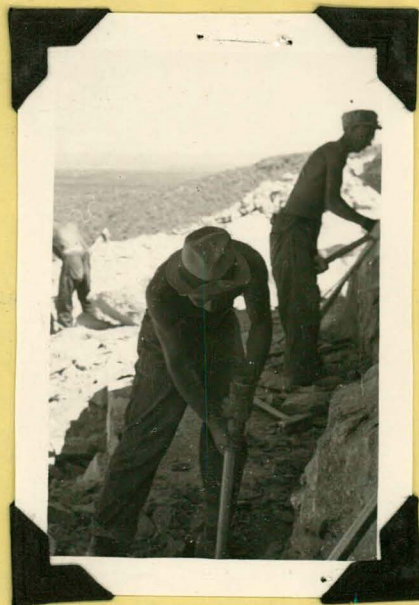
We have quarried and hauled lava rock to the Buena Vista site where it awaits further construction.

A small crew, working part time at the crusher stone quarry, works out and blasts out stone to supply the crusher.

J. S. Green

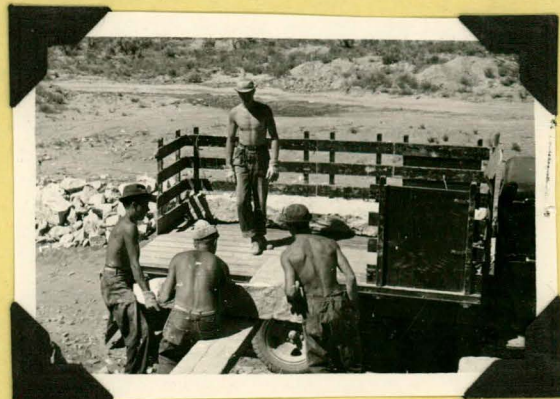
QUARRYING

Loosing stone from a body of rimrock. If the rocks cannot be loosed by prying, the rock seams are opened by drilling and blasting, after which rocks are pryed from the rim.



Rocks being split & shaped with hammers before being rolled down the hill to the road edge.

Rolling building stone onto a truck preparatory to transportation to Sod House building site.



CAMP BUENA VISTA, BF-3

OREGON

QUARRYING

July 1936

On September 30, 1936 I started working on the foundations at Sod House. Two weeks later I took charge of the Baccus quarry, one and a half miles northwest of Camp Buena Vista with eight CCC boys working with me. A week later we moved to a ledge which is situated one and a half miles from the old quarry and began putting out rock at the average of twenty to twenty-five truck loads per week.

I selected four CCC boys that were interested in learning the stone trade and started teaching them the rudiments of stone masonry. I started them out as a class at cutting stone. These boys were transferred to Sod House for a period of four months beginning Jan. 2, 1936, cutting stone for the Biological buildings and also working on walls. They were transferred back to work with me at Buena Vista on April 24. Three of these boys are still with me and are capable stone cutters and one of them is also a quarry man. The three boys are: Casimer Zekas, Paul Aikins and Harry Wardzala.

I left this quarry on December 16, 1935, and as I am a certified blaster, I was assigned to blast rocks out of a nearby ditch until Dec. 24, during which time I was in charge of from eight to twenty boys.

On December 24 I was laid off until further notice. I was called back on April 23rd to resume my former work. I was placed in charge of the same quarry with twelve CCC boys.

About June 1, I split my pink quarry force in half and added six men to each half and began quarrying lava rock for the Buena Vista residence buildings, porch, walk, and also for the Sod House buildings. In order to get these huge slabs of lava rock I mounted a hoist on to the back end of a stake truck.

In the latter part of June I opened a rock crusher quarry six and one half miles south of Buena Vista. This crew consists of four drillers and sixteen other enrollees.

All the quarries are in active operation at the present time.

Frank Wiseman

CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

BRIDGES

July 1936

In the latter part of June, Camp Buena Vista received a large order of bridge lumber for some much needed bridges for our project. A bridge building program was begun by a foreman in charge with a small crew of boys.

One of the first jobs was to convert an old truck into a semi-trailer to transport the heavy bridge timbers to the various and far flung bridge sites.

Another job which confronted us in this work was building a pile driver to drive the twenty foot piling on which some of our bridges are to rest. For material for the pile driver a trip had to be made to the woods, a distance of ninety miles, where we secured poles up to forty feet in length and of such quality and size as to make our driver substantial and lasting. Enough very fine poles were secured with one trip.

The boys on the crew now know what bridging is and the eighty penny decking spikes don't dodge nearly as much as they did. I might also add that the tool room boy won't have as many spike maul handles to put in, in the future.

Although not so many bridges were constructed this month we are in a position to go ahead much faster next month.

A black asbestos paint was used on the timbers as a preservative and in the evening the boys resembled a bunch of natives from some island all daubed up for a barn dance or wedding.

Oscar Nelson

BRIDGES



Laying a stone bridge abutment on Rockford Lane

A completed bridge on Rockford Lane



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-5

OREGON

RESIDENCE BUILDING

July 1936

The residence building is progressing nicely, with practically all the concrete work in the basement completed.

The stringers for flooring will be the next work started. There is a crew of men working with dump trucks making back fills around basement walls.

The lava rock is all quarried and hauled to a stock pile longside the building site, awaiting laying of the walls.

J. S. Green

CAMP BUENA VIST BF -3

OREGON

RESIDENCE CONSTRUCTION

July 1936

The work on the Type C Small House has been rather heavy this month. Sixty two cubic yards of concrete poured on basement work has been the big item on this job during the month of July.

On July second, forty three cubic yards were poured by a double shift of boys working six hours each, the job being completed in ten hours and twenty minutes actual time. A one to two and one half cubic foot capacity Jager mixer was used on this job.

All work is done by Junior boys from Chicago, Illinois. The form work for windows, lintels, coal chutes, columns and fire place was a bit difficult for the boys, but with each part finished the boys became more interested and their skill developed.

All the forms are finished for the remaining concrete work. On the first of August our building will begin to rise above the basement.

Two hundred seventy six man days in July were consumed on this project.

J. D. Sanders

BUENA VISTA RESIDENCE CONSTRUCTION



Pouring concrete basement walls of residence building.



Pouring concrete from mixer into wheelbarrow

Basement wall completed & ready to tear off wooden forms.



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

DYKE CONSTRUCTION

July 1936

In the first part of July with one RD-7 Diesel Bull-dozer, two and one fourth miles of road were filled and graded, requiring fifty one man days in which 4150 yards of dirt were moved. This road will also serve as a dyke.

Six culverts were placed in the most practical places. Headgates are to be attached to control flood waters and irrigation projects.

The middle of July we received another RD-7 angle-dozer and with the two cats we pushed up twelve dykes, ranging in length and size. This work required fifty nine man days in which 11,060 yards of dirt were moved.

The dykes will retain water enough for pond formation and irrigation of a large area of meadow ground.

The dykes are ten feet wide across the top with long slopes permitting three and one half miles of graded road along the dyke summit. This road permits driving over the dykes on high ground around a large area of marsh and meadow land.

Meredith Nichols

DYKING

Towing the ripper after the RD-7 to
loosen the turf & hard surface soil
preparatory to throwing up a dyke.



A culvert without headgate, in a section
of dyke.



Completed section of dyke.



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

TRUCK TRAILS

July 1936

Two and one half miles of dirt work has been completed on a road running east and west across the Refuge. This road is all ready for graveling now.

We have put in a loading trap made from old salvaged bridge lumber. This will speed up the loading considerably as loading dump truck by hand is very slow work. We will load this trap with a twenty-two caterpillar and a fresno scraper. This arrangement will handle one hundred and thirty cubic yards of gravel per day.

We have just received a shipment of seven new Dodge Dump trucks of two and one half yards capacity each.

J. S. Green

TRUCK TRAILS

Construction Center Patrol Road



Gathering stones for road fill on Diamond Lane road



A fill on Center Patrol road



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

DRAGLINE SHOVEL OPERATIONS

July 1936

During the month of July, work on the Central Patrol Road progressed rapidly in spite of the fact that working conditions were unfavorable for work, done with a Dragline, to reach maximum efficiency.

In order to get sufficient material to build the grade necessitated dredging the bottom of an old drainage canal that averaged four to ten feet in depth. The canal bank was given a two to one slope which will give the road lasting durability against the cutting action of running water. The intense heat, at times one hundred and twenty degrees fahrenheit, in the cab of the excavator was almost unbearable. However, we completed a mile and a half of the road grade, moving approximately three thousand yards of dirt in twenty five and one half man days. To date five miles of road grade has been completed.

To complete the large amount of work outlined for the summer, a second shift was added on July twentieth. On the twenty fifth the dragline was moved to a new location to begin operation on a ditch which is part of the pond development program. This ditch will measure twenty four feet in width at the bottom and has an average depth of three feet, with a two to one slope. In nine man days we have dug seven hundred feet of ditch, which represents twenty three hundred yards of dirt moved.

Leland Sitz

DRAGLINE OPERATION ON CENTER PATROL ROAD IN JULY



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

FOOD & COVER PLANTING

July 1936

This project consists of planting several different kinds of grass seeds which have been shipped here from other camps such as Wild Millett and Smart Weed.

In the early part of June Mr. Stanley Jewett gave me enough wheat and barley to seed about one hundred acres and this crop is maturing nicely. It will be left standing and the geese and ducks can feed on this grain all fall and into the winter.

We have one enrollee, sent to us by the State college, who is gathering various kinds of plant life to use for specimens. At the present date he has a wonderful collection to send to Washington.

J. S. Green

FIELD OF WILD HAY CUT AND SHOCKED ON MALHEUR REFUGE



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

LAKE & POND DEVELOPMENT

July 1936

The lakes and ponds which we are continually working on are affording wonderful feeding ground for ducks and geese. These ponds vary in depth from six inches to six feet making ideal feeding ground for all species of ducks.

The lakes and ponds also serve another purpose. Raising the water to a greater depth has caused the formation of many islands which are covered with a heavy growth of grass. These places afford adequate protection against any predatory animals. The ducks and geese are able to hide their nests in this dense growth of grass and brush from the destructive raven which eats thousands of duck and geese eggs every season .

J. S. Green

LAKE & POND DEVELOPMENT

Illustration of natural cover for water fowl on the
Malheur Refuge



Inside the Refuge
looking out



One of the small lakes
developed through use
of water control struc-
tures.



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

TELEPHONE LINES

July 1936

During July my work has been of four kinds; selecting and cutting stone from the lava beds, doing general cleanup work in camp, resetting a telephone line of one and one half miles, and repairing Diamond Lane.

From July first to the tenth, I took eight boys to the lava beds. We selected flat stones from four to six inches thick and cut them into slabs for side walks and porch floors. These stones were the right size and shape to be in keeping with the architectural beauty of the Headquarter's Building at Sod House.

July thirteen, fourteen and fifteen, we worked in camp at separating and piling telephone poles and barbed wire in a stock pile and tallying and unloading bridge lumber.

July sixteen to twentyfour was the warmest weather of the summer, but the boys and I moved a mile and one half of telephone line thirty feet west of the Center Patrol Road. We put in new poles and strung the wire without a moments loss of the use of the telephone.

We removed the old poles and hauled them away, leaving a new telephone line straight and in keeping with other work on the Center Patrol Road.

July twenty-seventh and twenty eighth we spent in camp, segregating supplies and hauling to the sorting ground material which will not be used this summer.

July twenty-nine to thirty-one, the boys and I began repairing the Diamond Lane. The road was badly weathered and impassable. We are hauling rock, filling up washouts, strengthening fills and otherwise improving it.

W. L. Carden

TELEPHONE LINES

Making right of way for telephone line which was moved thirty feet West of telephone line position in photo. This line was moved to make way for the Center Patrol road.



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

SURVEYING

July 1936

The month of July was a period of great activity in all lines of construction and therefor the engineering force were very busy keeping the three camps working at top speed.

The engineering this month is divided into three groups, Lineal, Topographic and grade line.

The Lineal survey is on fence and boundary location around the border of Malheur Lake and Blitzen Valley Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. Three and one half miles were completed this period.

Topographic Survey is for the purpose of finding suitable location for permanent ponds and nesting areas for a very large variety of birds that nest in this vicinity. During this month sixty five acres were topographically surveyed.

More time was allotted to Grade Line survey than to any other type of survey because of its importance in the construction of roads and dykes.. Grade Line survey consists of location, grades and cross sections on roads and dikes, necessitating some fifty five miles of line.

This Refuge, being one of the largest in the United States, required one thousand miles of travel to and from projects over various types of roads.

Fifty six man days were required for this work.

Chas. Clark

Asst. to a Technician

SURVEYING



Charley Clark & crew
Running a grade for the Center
Patrol Road

CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

July 1936

The educational program for the month of July followed the general policies that this Camp has been following for several months. It has been our intention to instruct individually. Each enrollee is given an opportunity to learn that subject which he is best qualified to learn. I believe it is the intent of all departments in this camp to cooperate with each enrollee in his individual study. Men are encouraged to work on the job in the position in which they are best qualified. We use the same plan or system in our camp classes. We have eighteen classes going at present, none of them large but each one fitting a desire of a few enrollees who desire to learn a certain subject. We also have fifty eight students taking correspondence courses, some enrollees taking as many as four different courses. As many of the enrollees have never had a chance to work or study for themselves everything is done that we can do to get each student to do something for himself by himself. It is our plan now to get the various individuals to conquer their personal inferiority complexes and to get them to gain confidence in their own abilities. All our educational program is based on the individual and its purpose is to bring out the best traits within each individual.

This month we have been encouraging educational recreational trips. These trips are not only to awaken a love for nature in the minds of the enrollees but to acquaint them with the Game Refuge and get them interested in their respective jobs in developing the refuge. This month we took thirty three of the enrollees on a trip through the Malheur National Forest where they learned much about harvesting, protecting, and raising of timber. They also learned much about wild life, grazing of domestic stock and how to protect grass lands from fire. It is our plan to follow this trip with trips nearer camp and on the Game Refuge.

During the month of July we had three enrollees teaching classes, three of the Biological Technical Force, three of the Army Personnel besides the Educational Adviser and his assistant. There has been more interest shown in education in this month than any month since I have been in this camp, by all departments concerned. I expect this cooperation to continue and gradually grow better for the purpose of bettering the morale of the enrollee, and for the purpose of building pride in this camp and the work of this camp.

We are making more definite plans for the months of August and September. We expect to have more teachers and more classes. Plans are now made for a tool room and a class room. This may be brought about by either buying an old building or using vacant parts of the barracks. More educational recreational trips are to be carried out in the future. We ha

We have, this month, been studying field jobs and making an analysis of these jobs so that they can better be taught, in a manner that will fit the individual enrollee's needs.

Many of the enrollees are learning by field work, such subjects as Carpentry, Bridge Building, Quarrying, Auto Mechanics, Diesel Engines, Road Construction, Fencing, Dyke Building and Construction of Telephone lines. Two men are learning surveying, two Drag Line Operating, Four Caterpillar Driving, one man is learning Blacksmithing, and in the Camp we have seven men learning office and Clerical work. Our program is to place the individual in his desired work where possible, and in many and most cases, make the study to fit the individual.

George C. Space

Educational Adviser

CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-5

OREGON

SAFETY MEETINGS

July 1936

During the month of July there were three general safety meetings. At these general safety meetings all of the enrollees in camp attended. The Army and Biological Personnel also attended.

At the first meeting a speed limit was made and other safety regulations concerning the safe driving of vehicles through the camp area were discussed and passed upon. Enrollees were cautioned about the use of water. During this dry season the conservation of water is essential that the tank will contain enough water to be of use in case of fire.

Augmenting the general safety meetings during July were three safety council meetings of the Army personnel and the Biological personnel. In these meetings matters were discussed and passed upon and brought to the attention of the enrollees at the general safety meetings.

These meetings are showing their worth and the enrollees as well as the members of the two staffs are benefitting by the discussions.

J. S. Green

CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

July 1936

Among the various recreational activities enjoyed at Camp Buena Vista baseball plays a prominent part. The technical and Army personnel of the camps about Burns have contributed generously to a fund which will go to the team winner in a competitive elimination tournament among the camps in the Burns area. The team winning this fund will go to Ontario to play against the winning team of the camps around Ontario. This competitive tournament will eventually decide the baseball supremacy among the camps of Boise District.

Other sports enjoyed at Camp Buena Vista at present are volley ball, tennis, and horse shoes, not to mention several successful snipe hunts.

Indoor activities include pool playing and one talkie picture per month in addition to several silent pictures each month. A professional Magician visited and entertained our Company recently.

Paul Aikins

"Baldy" Rosch scoring a run for Camp
Buena Vista playing against Indians
at Burns.



CAMP BUENA VISTA BF-3

OREGON

TRANSPORTATION

July 1936

Transportation of materials and supplies requires the continuous use of several trucks as our monthly average hauling amounts to five hundred and eighty tons.

All our supplies and materials have to be hauled from Burns, Oregon, our nearest rail point, which is forty-five miles distant. The hauling for last month consisted mostly of the following materials; building stone, bridge lumber, culverts, headgates, telephone poles, fence posts, cement and barbed wire.

J. S. Green